commercial prudence of the importers. However, as per the prevailing EXIM policy of the Government, all commodities, including raw sugar can also be imported by actual users against Advance Licenses (ALs) obtained under the Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificates (DEEC) Scheme, under which such imports are exempted from duties but are subject to export obligation to be fulfilled within the stipulated period.

Standards for quality of food itmes

† 497. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bureau of Indian Standards have submitted any draft in respect of quality of food-items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether items not conforming the quality standards of the B.I.S. are sold in the Indian market; and

(d) if so, the steps likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has not issued a common standard/draft standard in respect of quality of food items as the responsibility of fixing quality norms for food products including conformity with Indian Standards rests with Prevention of Food Adulteration Act under Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Corruption in PDS

498. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rampant corruption prevailing in Public Distribution System, especially the nexus between the PDS official and the retail depot holders;

(b) if so, the number of complaints, regarding corruption etc., received during the last three years;